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Message Text

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12
ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04

RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 DRC-01 /048 W
---------- 041677
R 051121Z NOV 73
FM AMCONSUL LAHORE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9753
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMCONSUL KARACHI

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PK
SUBJECT: PPP WINS PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY BY-ELECTION

REF: 1307

1. PPP CANDIDATE MUNIR ALI HARAL WON PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY SEAT IN BY-ELECTION AT CHAK JHUMRA (LYALLPUR) ON NOV 1 BY OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF NEARLY 60,000 VOTES. CLOSEST OPPONENT COLLECTED ONLY 998 VOTES AND LOST SECURITY DEPOSIT. HARAL WAS NOT OPPOSED BY ANY OPPOSITION CANDIDATE BECAUSE UDF DECIDED AFTER RECENT GUJRAT BY-ELECTION (REFTEL) THAT, IN LIGHT OF "GROSS DISHONESTY" PRACTICED BY PPP IN THAT ELECTION, IT NOT WORTHWHILE ENTER CONTEST.

2. HARAL HAS NOT RUN FOR POLITICAL OFFICE BEFORE, BUT WAS PROBABLY PICKED TO PLAY UPON SENTIMENTS OF ELECTORATE (HE RAN FOR SEAT RENDERED VACANT BY DEATH OF HIS ELDER BROTHER). PUNJAB INFORMATION MINISTER KAHLOAN, WHO IS INTIMATE OF GOVERNOR KHAR, WENT TO CHAK JHUMRA CONSTITUENCY FOR SEVERAL DAYS TO CAMPAIGN FOR HARAL (AND PRESUMABLY TO MANAGE CAMPAIGN). CHIEF ELECTION COMMISSIONER SAJJAD AHMAD JAN TOLD CONSUL GENERAL LAST WEEK HE PLANNED TO VISIT CONSTITUENCY PERSONALLY DURING ELECTION, IN LIGHT OF ALLEGATIONS OF MALPRACTICE DURING GUJRAT BY-ELECTION. ACCORDING TO
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PRESS, HE WAS ON SCENE.

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3. COMMENT: PPP CONTINUES TO BAT 1000 ON PUNJAB BY-ELECTIONS. THIS PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY BY-ELECTIONED ASSUMED MORE THAN MINOR IMPORTANCE ONLY BECAUSE IT FOLLOWED RELATIVELY CLOSELY AFTER HOTLY CONTESTED GUJRAT ELECTION WHERE PPP WON SUBSTANTIAL VICTORY AMID OPPOSITION CRIES OF FOUL PLAY. WITH ITS IN-CREASINGLY SURE INSTINCT FOR POLITICAL FUMBLES, OPPOSITION LEFT FIELD BEFORE GAME IN LYALLPUR, THUS MAKING THIS ONE OF EASIER PPP WINS. OUR JUDGMENT IS THAT PPP WORKS HARD ON THESE BY-ELECTIONS, GETS ITS PARTY WORKERS OUT, IS BECOMING GENERALLY BETTER ORGANIZED ON EFFORTS OF THIS SORT, AND WAS OPERATING THIS TIME IN AREA OF GENUINELY STRONG PPP SUPPORT.
KING

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